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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The claims as listed below will replace all prior listings and presentations of claims in the above-identified application.

Please amend Claims 1-3, 5, 6, 14, 15, 17, 18 and 21 as indicated below:

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A communication system for facilitating communication between a patient and a caregiver, the system comprising:

a light emitting module comprising a class II laser pointer;

an attachment device for removably affixing said light emitting module on an ear stem of a pair of eyeglasses configured to be worn by a patient, the eyeglasses comprising substantially transparent lenses, wherein the laser pointer is mounted to the glasses such that a laser image is projected forward from the patient;

a remote power source configured to supply the laser with electrical power;

a remote switch coupled to the power source and the laser, the switch being configured to allow a patient or a caregiver to selectively activate and de-activate the laser; and

a series of charts ~~chart~~ configured to be mounted at a location distant from, but within view of the patient, the ~~chart~~ charts comprising a printable surface with a plurality of graphic and alphanumerical symbols substantially permanently printed thereon, the symbols being grouped by subject matter on each chart, the charts being arranged to be visible by both the patient and a caregiver, said symbols being configured to facilitate communication from the patient to the caregiver; and

illumination provided by the pointer and directed at a plurality of said symbols in sequence, the combination of the illumination and the illuminated symbol providing communication from the patient to the caregiver.

2. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The communication device of Claim 1, wherein the ~~chart comprises~~ charts comprise an alphabetical listing of Latin characters.

3. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The communication device of Claim 1, wherein said ~~chart comprises~~ charts comprise a plurality of graphic symbols that represent concepts relating to the patient's medical care.

4. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The communication device of Claim 1,

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wherein said laser comprises a laser diode.

5. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The communication device of Claim 3, wherein said ~~chart further comprises~~ charts further comprise an alphanumeric label identifying each of the graphic symbols.

6. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A non-verbal communication system comprising:

a light emitting pointer mounted to a patient or to an accessory or an article of clothing worn by a patient;

a power source configured to supply the light emitting pointer with electrical power;

a switch coupled to the power source and the light emitting pointer, the switch being configured to allow the patient or the caregiver to selectively activate and deactivate the light emitting pointer;

a series of displays ~~display~~ configured to be positioned at a location remote from, but within view of the patient, the ~~display~~ displays comprising a plurality of symbols grouped by subject matter and arranged to be visible by both the patient and a caregiver and illuminated by light from the pointer, said symbols being configured to facilitate communication of concepts from the patient to the caregiver, wherein the displays do not require electric power to maintain the symbols thereon.

7. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The communication device of Claim 6, wherein the power source comprises a power compartment containing at least one battery, said power compartment connected to said light emitting module via an electrical conductor.

8. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The communication device of Claim 7, wherein said power compartment is formed by a housing that also houses the switch.

9. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The communication device of Claim 6, wherein the accessory or article of clothing comprises a hat.

10. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The communication device of Claim 8, wherein the housing further comprises a dimmer switch configured to vary an intensity of a light emitting pointer beam emitted by the light emitting pointer.

11. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The communication device of Claim 1,

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wherein the attachment device comprises at least one O-ring.

12. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The communication device of Claim 10, wherein the dimmer switch is accessible through a hole in said housing.

13. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The communication device of Claim 6, wherein said symbols are icons portraying concepts to be communicated by said-patient.

14. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The communication device of Claim 6, wherein the ~~display further comprises~~ displays further comprise labels corresponding to said concepts to be communicated by said patient.

15. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method of nonverbal communication between a patient and a caregiver, the method comprising:

providing a laser coupled to a power supply and an on/off switch by a length of wire;

removably affixing the laser to a pair of eyeglasses worn by the patient;

providing a chart at a location remote from, but within view of the patient, the chart comprising a plurality of symbols printed thereon and arranged to be visible to both the patient and the caregiver, said symbols being configured to symbolize concepts to be communicated from the patient to the caregiver;

activating the laser by operating the switch;

aiming a laser beam emitted from said laser at a symbol displayed on the chart, causing a visible laser image to impinge on the chart on or adjacent a symbol that symbolizes a concept to be communicated to the caregiver; and

view said symbol illuminated by said laser beam.

16. (ORIGINAL) The method of nonverbal communication as claimed in Claim 15, wherein said aiming of said laser beam is achieved via body movement proximal to a point of attachment of said attachment device.

17. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method of nonverbal communication between a patient and a caregiver comprising:

affixing a laser module to an article worn by a patient via an attachment;

activating the laser via a switch;

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directing a laser beam emitted from said laser module at ~~an object~~ a symbol printed on one of a series of non-electronic charts, so as to cause a laser image to impinge on the ~~object~~ chart in a vicinity of the symbol; and

allowing a caregiver to view said ~~object~~ chart and the symbol illuminated by said laser beam;

wherein said ~~object~~ symbol is selected by the patient to communicate a concept to a caregiver, the concept relating to a medical care of the patient.

18. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An apparatus for use with a system for providing nonverbal communication between a first person and a second person, a light emitting pointer being mounted to the head of the first person, the apparatus comprising:

a chart having a plurality of images printed thereon, said objects being selected to represent concepts to be communicated by a first person to a second person, wherein the chart does not require power to maintain the images thereon;

a support for supporting the chart within view of the first person and the second person, such that the first person can point to the images on the chart with the light emitting pointer.

19. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus of Claim 18, wherein the chart comprises images representing at least one concept selected from the group consisting of: pain, discomfort, emotion, personal grooming requests and information relating to a medical condition of the first person.

20. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus of Claim 19, wherein the images are grouped according to said concept, and wherein a plurality of images indicating related concepts are located adjacent one another on the chart.

21. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A system configured to provide a system of nonverbal communication between a patient and a caregiver, the system comprising:

a pointer device projecting into a room where the patient and the caregiver are located;

said pointer device being mounted on the patient and adapted to point to objects remote from the patient and within view of the caregiver;

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said objects comprising an indication of a desired communication between the patient and the caregiver, and said objects being visible to both the caregiver and the patient without providing electric power to the object.

22. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The system of Claim 21, wherein the object is symbolic of at least one concept selected from the group consisting of: pain, discomfort, emotion, personal grooming requests and information relating to a medical condition of the patient.

23. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The system of Claim 21, wherein the pointer device comprises a laser pointer.